

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 14-16, and 18-20 have been cancelled.

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 3, 7-13, 17, 21, and 22 are now pending in this application.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1, 14, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. 20020032515 (hereafter “Nakamura et al.”). Claims 2 and 4-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakamura et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,750,805 (hereafter “Cameron”). Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 14, and 15 have been cancelled.

The Office indicated that claims 3 and 10-13 contain allowable subject matter. Claim 3 has been amended to be placed in independent form. Claims 7-13 depend from claim 3. Applicants submit that claims 3 and 7-13 are in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 16-22

The Office did not set forth a prior art rejection for claims 16-22 in the Office Action mailed on September 26, 2006. Claims 16 and 18-20 have been cancelled. Applicants submit that claims 17, 21, and 22 are allowable over Nakamura et al. and Cameron.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 22428
Telephone: (202) 672-5426
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

Glenn Law
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 34,371